

Remarks

Claims 113-153 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 131 and 139 have been amended, and claims 129, 130, 132-138, and 140-146 have been cancelled. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 113-128, 131, 139, and 147-153 are currently before the Examiner and favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a). The applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 113-128 and 147-153 are allowable in the subject application.

Claims 131 and 139 are objected to as depending from a rejected claim. By this Amendment, the applicants have amended claims 131 and 139 such that they are in independent form. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 129, 130, 132-138, and 140-146 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the 1997/1998 Stratagene catalog. The applicants respectfully submit that the 1997/1998 Stratagene catalog does not disclose the claimed invention. However, by this Amendment, the applicants have cancelled claims 129, 130, 132-138, and 140-146, rendering this rejection moot.

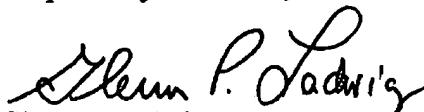
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

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The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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